

## LEPC OBJECTIVES:

1. To obtain and provide the general public with information: Mandated under EPCRA and SARA Title III, created to protect their right-to-know, and that educates people about their Local Emergency Planning Committee.
2. To provide a hazardous substances emergency response plan.
3. To educate the general public on what to do in the event of an emergency. Since September 11, 2001, public awareness and desire for accurate information regarding basic self protection, preparedness and crisis management has never been greater.
4. To work as a partner with business and industry to improve participation in mandatory Tier II Chemical annual reporting; and promote maximum utilization of Material Safety Data Sheets. Increase awareness and emphasize importance of reporting significant releases and up-to-date inventories.
5. To educate and provide information to the general public that will enhance the performance of first responders and supporting agencies within Hamilton County and the region.

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Local Emergency Planning  
Committee**

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**HAMILTON  
COUNTY  
LOCAL EMERGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

## *WHAT IS THE LEPC?*



*Learn  
Educate  
Prepare  
Communicate*

# Getting to know your Hamilton County LEPC



In October 1986, Congress enacted the “**Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act**” (EPCRA) and “**Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act Title**

**III**” (SARA Title III). This initiative was in direct response to the 1984 Union-Carbide toxic gas release in Bhopal, India. This one incident resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries in the area surrounding the facility. Under United States Code Title 42, the **Local Emergency Planning Committee** (LEPC) is the organization responsible for development and implementation at the local level of the plans set-forth and required by this legislation.

EPCRA, SARA Title III, and Indiana Emergency Response Commission exist to protect and educate the general public. The LEPC's primary charges are:

1. To ensure that residents and workers in Hamilton County are aware and informed of their right to know what chemicals are being stored, used, released, and discarded.
2. To facilitate public requests for information as required by these laws.

EPCRA and SARA Title III also serve business and industry employees as well as first responders (police, firefighters, EMS) by protecting their right to know about chemicals they may be exposed to in the course of performing their jobs.

Federal law requires business and industry operators to perform annual chemical inventories (Tier II Chemical Report) and submit their report to the Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC), local Fire Department and LEPC no later than March 1st of each year.

The report (Tier II Chemical Report) is a standardized form created by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to rate and identify chemicals and hazardous materials. Whether or not a company must file this annual list is determined by the type of chemical and how much is on hand.

Having this information readily available to Fire Departments serve two important purposes:

1. Enhances response time to an incident with the right equipment and personnel.
2. Immediately alerts first responders whether the public is at risk and advisories are warranted.



In the event of a chemical release (i.e., spill, leak, emission, gas cloud), a business or industry must report the incident immediately. Indiana Emergency Response Commission state a specific timeline for reporting and failure to do so is a violation of **both** Federal and State law *whether or not First Responders were dispatched to the scene*.

If First Responders are dispatched to a release incident and a Tier II Report is not on file within the jurisdiction, the operator is in violation.

The responding agencies are entitled to recover the costs of securing, containing, and managing the incident.

## Mitigation

## Response

## Recovery

The LEPC is an all volunteer organization comprised of members of law enforcement, fire fighting, healthcare, public health, communications, emergency management, elected state and local government, media, local environmental, transportation, facilities and community groups.

Sub-committees include: Information, Training and Exercise and Resource and Planning. Most of the members live and work in Hamilton County. As an “unfunded mandate” the LEPC has little or no annual budget and relies on support from it's members and grants.

The LEPC believes that “practice makes perfect.” First Responder seminars, classes, hands-on training, and drills are conducted within the County and on the regional level year round.



### Drill scenarios have included:

Overtaken tankers	Train derailments
Toxic gas releases	Mass casualties
Explosions	Terrorism
Natural disasters (flood & tornado)	